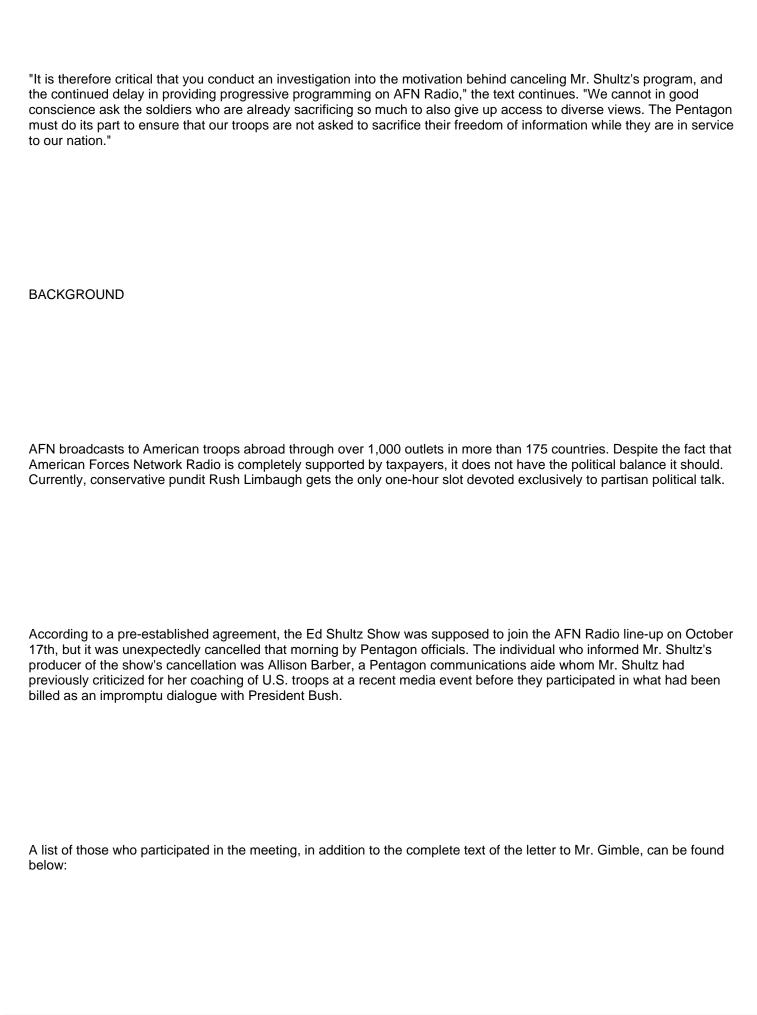
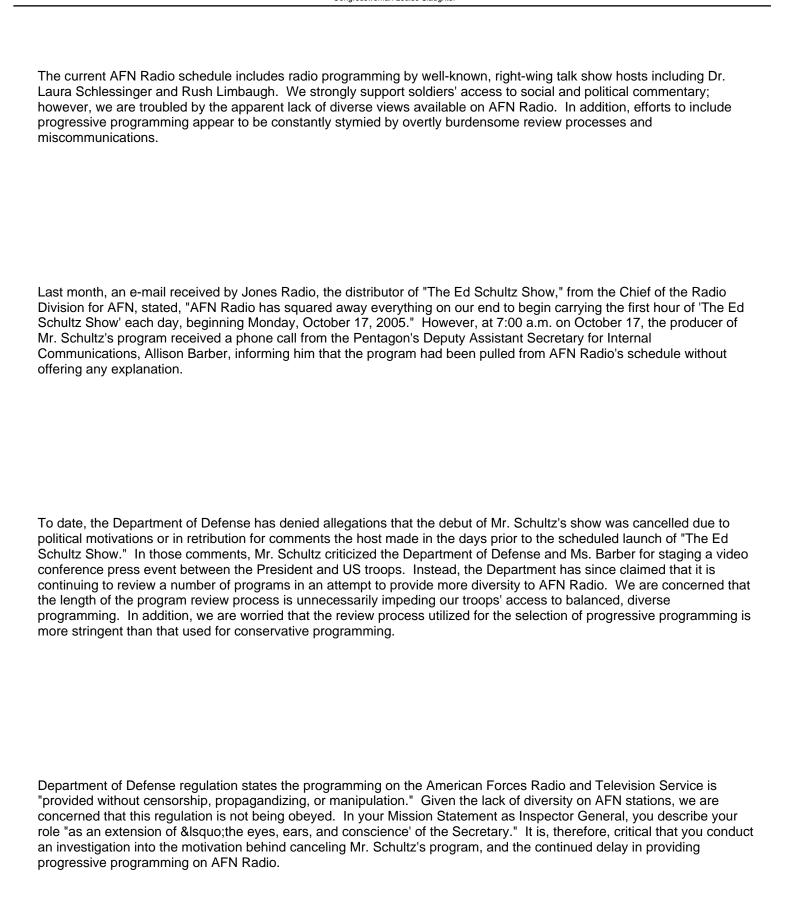
Oct 27 2005 - Slaughter Meets with Colleagues, Ed Shultz to Discuss Lack of Political Balance on Ame

Slaughter Meets with Colleagues, Ed Shultz to Discuss Lack of Political Balance on American Forces Radio
Calls for Inspector General Investigation into Partisan Bias of AFN Programming
Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today met with Representatives Steve Israel (D-NY-2) and Earl Pomeroy (ND-At Large) to discuss the lack of political balance on the American Forces Radio Network. Progressive radio talk show host Ed Shultz was also in attendance at the meeting.
"We have to send a message loud and clear that censorship of political views in the United States of America is not going to be tolerated," Rep. Slaughter said, "definitely not for the political gain of one party over another, and especially not at the expense of some of our bravest citizens."
At the meeting, Rep. Slaughter called for an investigation by the Pentagon's Inspector General into exactly why progressive programming has yet to be included on AFN Radio. An official letter requesting such an investigation is currently being circulated to Members of Congress and will be forwarded to the Inspector General's office. In the letter, Rep. Slaughter also requests a full examination of the recent decision to cancel the previously scheduled launch of the Ed Shultz radio program, a decision some believe was the result of political retribution at the hands of the Bush administration.
"Department of Defense regulations state the programming on the American Forces Radio and Television Service is 'provided without censorship, propagandizing, or manipulation,'" the letter reads. "Given the lack of diversity on AFN stations, we are concerned that this regulation is not being obeyed."



Text of Letter to Mr. Gimble:
Mr. Thomas F. Gimble
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense
400 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-4704
Dear Mr. Gimble,
We are writing to express our concerns regarding the Department of Defense's refusal to carry "The Ed Schultz Show" on the American Forces Network (AFN) Radio as scheduled, and to ask that you launch an immediate investigation into the Pentagon's delay in providing balanced programming on AFN Radio.



We cannot in good conscience ask the soldiers who are already sacrificing so much to also give up access to diverse views. The need to provide our deployed servicemen and women with more diverse programming has been recognized

and supported by Congress. The Pentagon must do its part to ensure that our troops are not asked to sacrifice their freedom of information while they are in service to our nation. We ask that you do your part by examining the review process for all programming permitted on AFN Radio. In addition, we request that you investigate the application of the review process on conservative and progressive programs to determine if it is objectively applied, and provide an analysis of the diversity of programs currently broadcasting on AFN Radio.
We appreciate your attention to this request, and we await your response.
List of those who participated in the meeting:
Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28)
Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY-2)
Congressman Earl Pomeroy (ND-At Large)
Jones Radio Network Host Ed Schultz